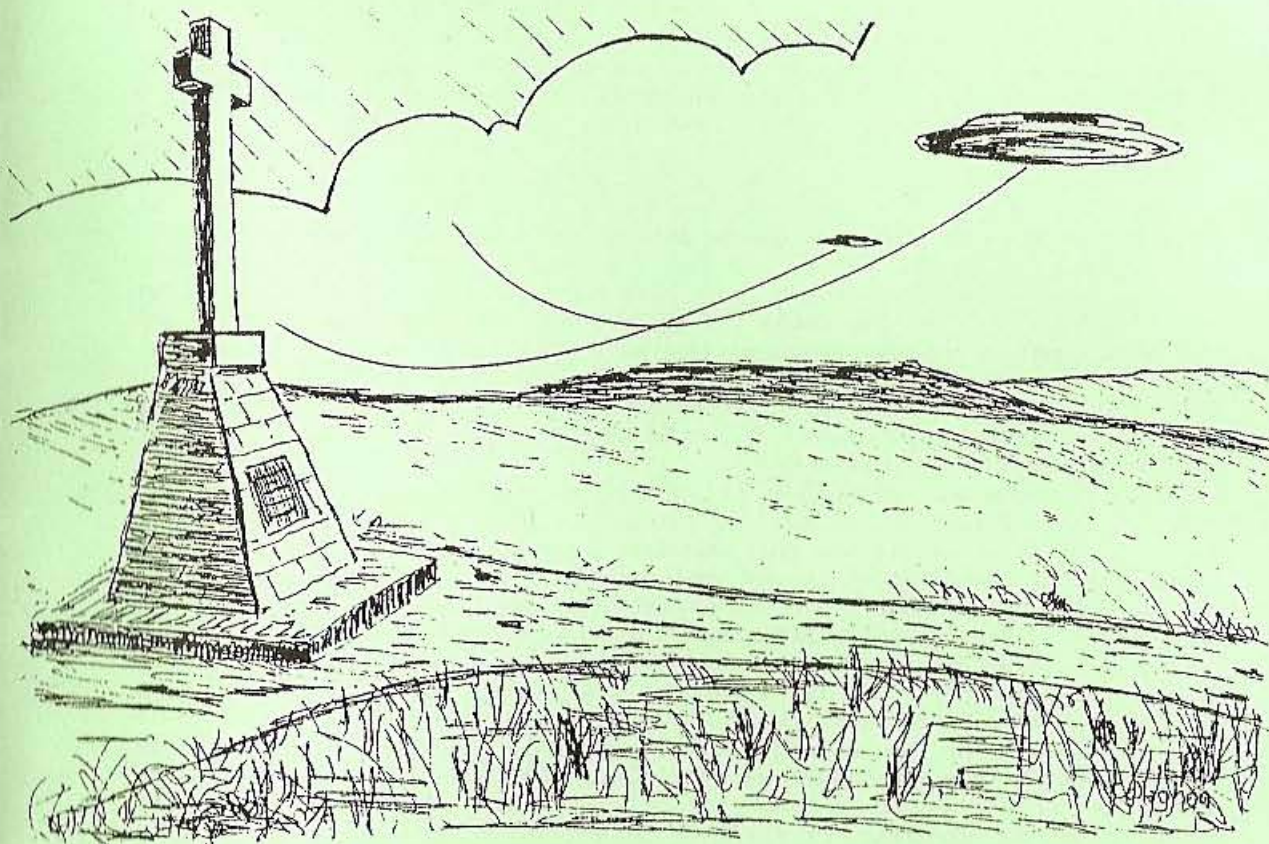


NORTHERN NEWS

UFO

143
JUNE 1990



NORTHERN UFO NEWS SUBS: 23 for 3

EDITOR: JENNY RANDES

COVER: BILL CALLAGHAN

CONTENT: p.2...Return of the you-know-whats!... p.4 Northern Circle cases...p.8...overseas cases from Canada,Germany,the USA and the Pacific...p.9... Mersey Mixture (Margaret Fry)...pp.10 - 13 ...Brief cases from Cheshire,Lancashire,Merseyside ,Staffordshire,Tyne & Wear...including radar/visual over Mow Cop and an Irish photograph...pp 13-16 ..Case History... Bedroom visitor in the West Midlands and a major new close encounter from Todmorden ... Plus all the usual features.

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J. R. Comments . . .

No prizes for guessing the subject matter this editorial. Crop circles. There seems to have been an exponential rise in the number of crop circle events each summer since they first hit the bigtime in 1988. Last year a record 305 formations in Britain coincided with massive hype around release of Andrews & Deigado's photo book 'Circular Evidence'. In 1990 we are (by late June) around the 200 mark. With the BBC 'Daytime Live' staging of a nationwide 'Crop Watch' (which encourages 'how to get your mug on TV by finding a crop circle or, for some, make your own by trampling down a few fields and costing farmers big bucks in the process'). With the Oxford conference on circles in June almost every newspaper in Britain, TV crews from most continents and ITN were providing even more coverage for what has undoubtedly been fast replacing UFOlogy as THE modern mythology. I can only give a resume of main events to date in the 1990 crop of circles. In the next issue we may be able to update things.

Country Life has helped the BBC keep the pot boiling in the winter thanks to Ralph Noyes. Noyes has launched another crop circle group (springing up faster than local UFO teams). He is 'editing' a self-published book to come in October based on the musings of their formative sessions. More details when I have them, but that's all the grapevine tells me.

This source first carried the Andrew Macera and Michael Hall argument that crop circles were caused by fungal growth (8 March) which made several nationalists and TV subsequently. Paul Fuller and I had a long talk to these two after a Central TV debate on circles in May and it is obvious that whilst sincere they are completely wrong. They admitted that they had never seen a real crop circle and this was very evident because the 'fairy rings' they talk of (mould under ground that creates a circle or ring when set off by the breeze in summer) has no relationship whatsoever with the genuine circles of layered, spiralled crop. We offered to show them real circles. We offered to view any circle they could take us to which was a fungal growth and publicly support them if it was the same thing. On both counts they have failed to oblige and, frankly, we think this a giant red herring.

Meanwhile the fun began in earnest in Wessex with the arrival mid May of spectacular new formations of rings and circles and then - the ultimate blow to the weather-based theory of Dr Terence Meaden, as it was termed by some - square circles! In fact, the formation at Cheseloot (an annual circle haunt in Hampshire) was a dumb-bell with little rectangles either side of the 'bar' between two circles. No way is this a wind vortex was the instant cry. I feel that too. Was it a clever hoax by unknown intelligences (the humans!) out to fool all those captivated by 'cerealogy' (as FSR consultant George Wingfield now calls it)? It seems against the religion of most shades of opinion within the controversy! save Paul Fuller and myself who are becoming increasingly certain that a coordinated hoax is responsible for many of the fantastic numbers and varieties now appearing! albeitt one stamped on top of Meaden's atmospheric cause for a few cases.

Predictably this view (which we unleashed on the world on the Central TV show) has brought hoots of derision from all quarters. However, we now know of several hoaxed circles that were NOT spotted by any 'cerealogist' at the time and the book which we have coming out (yes folks another one!) describes some of the reasoning and the clues. It's title is 'Crop Circles: A Mystery Solved' (Robert Hale, August) which brought roars of laughter from some people. However, the mystery solved could be UFOlogy as the book equally illustrates how many classic cases crumble before Meaden's ionized vortex!

The nationals took to square circles with gusto. The Observer science column (20 May) previewed the Oxford conference and Dr Meaden's theory with theoretical work from both Japanese and American Universities. 'Plasma vortices can be luminous at night. They are often mistaken for UFOs' it reported. The Telegraph (8 June) were equally fair to the theory and the conference; discussing the work of FIVE atmospheric physicists and meteorologists and totally demolishing last summers claims by Andrews and Delgado that fellow meteorologists scoffed at Dr Meaden.

A good general review appeared in the Sunday Express (27 May) and on the same day the Sunday Telegraph reported on 'squaring the corn circles' with a spectacular view of the new dumb-bell and Delgado saying 'This is going to shatter a lot of people's dreams... Orthodox physics has no answers to this.' and Meaden replying that 'vortex break down' fitted perfectly.

By June the National Farmers Union were up in arms (as they had warned Paul and I months before and knew they had our full support). In order to stop herds of sightseers trampling all over farmers fields after hysterical publicity they were strictly controlling access via a new registration scheme. BBC's 'Crop Watch' was cited as the key factor as it was enticing so many people to wander thoughtlessly in search of marks.

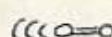
Meanwhile circles were appearing outside of Wessex. How many of these are genuine and how many the IFO equivalent in cereology (ICOs?) remains to be seen. See page 4 for a review of three northern crop circle cases. Down in Devon BUFORAs Robert Moore did a fine job of handling the media when a strange formation appeared at Bickington in the lee of a hill. This was a nontuplet (?) previously unheard of - a big circle with EIGHT satellites spaced like a telephone dial (ET phone Devon?). Frankly, the farmers who suspected a prank in this instance, have a very good case. There are suspicious features. The UFO brigade were out in force claiming that witnesses who wish to remain nameless saw the spacecraft which did it.

The combined hoax/vortex theory gained new impetus with a major story in the Western Daily Press (12 June). Paul Fuller explained the dumb-bell as the product of two weather-based circles with a spur 'touched up' after arrival by unknown hoaxers. Whilst both Dr Meaden and Pat Delgado dismissed the opinion for their own different reasons it makes a lot of sense to me.

Ten days later I was on Tyne Tees TV (with great help from Philip Mantle and Elsie Oakensen) debating circles with George Wingfield. I finally challenged him before the millions (well thousands) (hundreds?) to explain what the 'unknown intelligence' is if not human (as I kept insisting!) or alien (as he kept denying). 'It was too complicated to explain' was the gist of what he said live (to which I asked him if it was the dolphins and he grunted a rebuttal). Afterwards in the 'Green Room' he was somewhat more forthcoming suggesting some kind of global psychokinesis rooted in Jungian archetypes or else parapsychical beings in another dimension - both painting the canvas of our fields with mystic warnings about ecological disaster. Mmm

And so to the Oxford conference where journalists and TV crews fell over one another and Japanese scientists bamboozled everyone with exclusive film of a plasma vortex generated in the lab and slide after slide of incomprehensible equations. More sense came from the American professors who designed a new model of vortex break down to explain multiple circles. New Scientist did it proud and many nationals from The Times through to The Independent went to town on 23/24 June. Andrews and Delgado fired their new salvo via Sunday Express (24 June) with wonderful twaddle about Dr Meaden and supporters being "in league" with the government. The cover-up theory of cereology has arrived on schedule!... Now where is that MI 5 paycheque?

NORTHERN CIRCLES



Despite myths to the contrary it has NEVER been the case that crop circles are restricted to Wessex counties. Indeed, as the new book by Fuller and myself demonstrates pre-'crop circle mythology' cases nearly all come from OUTSIDE Hampshire and Wiltshire. The north has not been immune and even NUN has featured cases prior to the creation of the mystery in 1980. With all the hype it is not surprising that local cases are coming this summer.

(A) First in line is a report from Nigel Mortimer and David Barclay of CONNECT about an event above Addingham on Ilkley Moor (yes - where the 'alien' was photographed in 1988!). These Yorkshire 'crop circles' are atypical. Two girls found four circles in January in heather atop a moor. Without knowing precise locations Mortimer looked, found and photographed them. They are arranged like the figure '4' on a die (a rare but not unheard of formation down south). The site was visited on 24 April and the 'circles' were evidently old. Within each one approximately 15 feet wide the heather was dead and some rocks had 'scuff' marks. I suggested these could be what geologists call erratics (boulders moved by glaciation during the last ice age retreat). The circles look not unlike those which caused a stir on the Black Mountains of Gwent last summer and turned out to be man-made for game bird shooting. CONNECT are checking these things out but at present this seems highly unlikely to be a genuine crop circle incident.

(B) The story broke on 31 May via the Wrexham Leader, North Wales Weekly News and Liverpool Daily Post. These show three 'rings' very faintly imprinted onto a farm at Llanfair Talhaiarn near Abergel in Clwyd. UFOs and alien visitors were suggested right away ('Martians on moors?' headed one newspaper!). The pictures show that they form a triangle with two reputedly 8 feet wide and the third 12 feet. The grass is undisturbed in the middle and merely browner in the thin rings. One story headed 'UFO circles in grass baffle boffins' is hardly true as Dr Tony Jones of the earth sciences department at the University of Aberystwyth proposed a Meaden vortex and two other scientists (one from Liverpool University and the other the Welsh Plant Breeders Centre - wonderfully named Mrs Pat Twigg!) were independently sure these were 'fairy rings' caused by fungal growth. From the photographs I agree they look exactly like these patterns. Nevertheless, to be fair to Margaret Fry (on whose doorstep these appeared) she was onto the case with Gary Rowe like a shot, took soil samples (which are being assessed) and pointed out the extraordinary high level of UFO events in the area (as you have seen from her previous NUN reports). A man in Rhos then came forward with the report of a 'sparkling magenta light' seen 'about the time the circles appeared' and the good old Daily Star (1 June) reported briefly but were surprisingly subdued in 'mouldy old UFOs'. A first-class report from Margaret reveals several problems with the press stories and the fungal theories. Apparently they had not grown or sprouted mushrooms (as fungi tends to provoke) since discovery on about 28 April. The delay in publicity was due to a later suggestion to report because of news of Wessex circles. The rings on measurement by Margaret (5 June) were some 11 feet, 14 feet and 20 feet wide with bulges at four equally spaced points. The ring itself was 12 inches wide. These are very different from press accounts. Why? Being 5 miles inland at 900 feet asl a Meaden vortex is improbable. Margaret refers to previous very local UFO sightings and says the farmer thinks a UFO was to blame and so does she.

(c) The final case was reported to Dr Meaden on 21 May. By 23 May I visited the site of a single crop circle near the massive US army store at Burtonwood in Cheshire and easily visible from the M62 motorway. It has now been there nearly 2 months and has still not provoked media reaction! After detailed investigation with the farmer it was clear upon approach via his winter wheat that what looks like a perfect circle from the motorway is in fact a very rough oval of weeded ground devoid of crop. It has no features (eg swirling or layering) typical of crop circles and the most likely explanation is underground water seepage which killed seeds soon after planting. The farmers did not know about the circle but accept that answer.

NEWS ROUND UP:

:: Good news is that the IUN have 'hijacked' the UFOIN files! These detailed archives built up by a team of independent investigators in the late seventies (before merging with BUFORA) were held by a Midlands group who did not give them up when they went solo; although the NUFON files were later retrieved and moved to Manchester University. Efforts to secure these in-depth files (which had the best cases - eg over 100 pages on the Aveley abduction) included a petition of still active UFOIN members but such battles became a senseless squabble in UFOlogy's overall context. The files were at least still made openly accessible in Nottingham and so left there until that group's recent split. Reputed financial offers from America were turned down and only IUN deemed worthy to possess this historical treasure. The records do, of course, belong to all research - after the team of investigators who built them up - and not to any one group, so it is sad they have been a political football kicked around for a decade. IUN plans are unknown but I am sure they will do the right thing by them for UFOlogy.

:: MAGONIA's Peter Rogerson (8 Braddon Ave Urmston Manchester M31 1UE) asks me to mention that he has 'two fine, near mint copies of 'UFO Study' available at £7 (plus p & P), one with a slight front page tear (otherwise good) and one copy of the BCA edition of 'UFOs: A British Viewpoint' (both these latter at £4.95 (plus p & p). These books (1981 and 1979 respectively) are both long out of print.

FOR YOUR PERUSAL:

Major articles elsewhere

Snips... If you don't belong to *BOLIDE* run by Hilary Evans why not think about it. For an annual fee you get a semi-regular bumper collection of reprints from all sorts of sources of anything relevant to BOL/UAP or earthlight study. Even the subscriber list is VERY impressive! (Contact 59 Tranquil Vale London SE3 OBS)... *Rattler's Tale* (A voyage into the imagination) is fiction and non-fiction of a strange kind. It's set itself up well over the past year and I am asked to tell you that an SAE will bring a free specimen copy c/o Anthony North BCM Keyhole London WC1N 3XX.

UFO Times (6 issues, with BUFORA sub £16.50; 103 Hove Ave London E17 7NG)
May: Detailed expose of South African crash and comments on 'Perspectives'

MAGONIA (4 issues, £4, from 5 James Terrace London SW14 8HB)
Rimmer on abductions, Cassirer on delusions, Sandell on the old 'New Age'

SPI Enigmas (5 issues, £6, from 5 Tullibody Rd Alloa Scotland FK10 2LL)
 May: Fabulous Scottish fare as always...early Scottish UFOlogy recalled,
 plus ghosts, lake monsters, dinosaurs, ball lightning, consciousness etc!

IUR May/Jun (\$35 for 6, 2547 W Peterson Ave, Chicago, IL 60659 USA)
 Fascinating issue with broad debates on the UK v US schools of UFOlogy
 (involving Clark, Evans and Bennett), MJ-12 (Greenwood, Maccabee, Roedghier and
 Todd), earthlights (Devereux and Long) and embryonic Australian CE4 data.

MUFON Journal (\$30, for 12, 103 Oldtowne Rd, Seguin, Texas 78159-4099 USA)
 Whatever we think about American UFOlogy there is no doubt their two
 leading publications (IUR and this) are of the highest standard. The breadth
 of coverage is unequalled anywhere at present. In the Mar and Apr issues we
 have, just as a for instance; a detailed review of man in black folklore, a
 crop circle appears at Gulf Breeze and much else.

AFU Newsletter (In English ; PO Boc 11027 S-600 11 Norrkoping Sweden)
 All the latest Scandinavian events and a review of the life of its premier
 UFOlogist, 98 year old K Gosta Rehn who died recently.

OVNI Presence (36FF, 4 issues, BP 342 CH 1800 Vevey 1 Switzerland)
 Leading French journal has new report of traces at the famous Valensole
 landing site and a fine piece on the 1938 'War of the Worlds' hysteria.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT



Some updated news on what is due from the publishing field. By the time
 you read this Dave Clarke and Andy Roberts' book 'Phantoms of the Sky'
 should be launched by Hale. From the same publisher in August comes 'Crop
 Circles: A Mystery Solved' by Paul Fuller and myself. In November Sidgwick &
 Jackson issue 'The UFO Report 1991' edited again by Tim Good and promising
 more of the same as in last years issue. Meanwhile Bantam have sent me a
 dust jacket (but no book!) of 'The Watchers', published July, which is by Ray
 Fowler and is part three of his Betty Andreasson trilogy. In this, it seems,
 Ray, the UFOlogist, reports that he too has now been abducted. This is a US
 edition and no news of a British version; although doubtless with that sort
 of content (plus a foreword by Strieber) one is bound to follow.

CIRCLES FROM THE SKY Artetech Books 54 Frome Rd Bradford on Avon Wilts

This is the title of the (expanded) hardback version promised soon. It
 is presently available as a 134 pp A4 format stiff cover 'Proceedings' of
 the 'First International Conference on the Circles Effect' as held in
 Oxford on 23 June 1990. Edited by Dr Terence Meaden and Dr Derek Elsom it is
 a formidable package, heavily illustrated and invaluable (price unstated)
 to anyone wishing up to date news of circle research. There is 42 page
 survey by Meaden of his decade of research, latest work on his theory and
 new data appended...plus a 31 page article by Fuller and Randles - 'Crop
 Circles: A Scientific answer to the UFO mystery?' to preview their book
 adding some new data regarding UFOs and vortices. There are several other
 smaller papers; eg from scientists proposing models (such as Professors John
 Snow and Tokio Kikuchi), meteorologist David Reynold's field study of a
 strange circle event in Staffordshire and Japanese experiments to produce
 ionized vortices in the lab (with photos)...A bit patchy, but very useful.

CONFRONTATIONS Jacques Vallee Ballantine \$19.95 262pp Illus 1990

Advance review of the US edition (coming soon in the UK from Souvenir)
After a fairly disappointing return to UFOlogy, with the re-mix 'Confrontations', our longest standing scientific commentator is back in top form with a book that ranks amongst those great titles he produced in the sixties and seventies. But this is no aging hippie reminding us of long gone days. This is a revitalised UFOlogist offering the first truly significant book of the 90's. It will be read for decades to come.

Focusing on his personal field studies beyond close encounters (where supposedly remote witnesses have had a brush with some power and suffered dire consequences - including death in some instances) it takes us to the heart of modern UFOlogy. Whatever aspects we disagree upon (and Vallee is peculiarly Un-American in his denial of the ETH; although he does not embrace the neo-rationalists of Europe all the way either) most of us accept that some powerful and dangerous energy is in some cases undeniably provoking serious repercussions on people and machinery. In this way - by isolating the critical clues - we are heading ever nearer understanding.

I happen not to agree that some sort of intelligence may be involved (although who can wholly deny the option?) and believe we have not explored the natural UAP hypotheses fully enough. I do agree with Vallee that the ETH is a failed model and there is a clear rift in UFOlogy between those writers saying this (eg Vallee, Spencer, Evans, Roberts & Clarke and myself as examples) and those who are not (ie most of the homebred American UFO community). From these divisions and their respective efforts to prove their case I think will eventually come more understanding than if we were all whispering in bland unison; although the present level of acrimony is so intense that it threatens to lose these advantages to bitter chaos.

There are aspects of Vallee's book that I am unsure about. His classification scheme (yes another one!) seems academic and sidesteps the real issue - which is first hand study of the RIGHT cases, as he so correctly insists. His treatment (albeit brief) of the Shelley case from Lancashire (with which NUN or 'Abduction' readers will be familiar) relied upon a third hand source in some Australian magazine, which given its documentation is worrying. To be fair Jacques has promised to update this in future editions. Also a long discussion of two mystery deaths with seemingly little relevance to UFOlogy was possibly a warning of how we might end up spreading our net too far. This case, incidentally, reminded me in many ways of the Zigmund Adamski story (with a circumstantial UFO connection). I have been heavily criticised (eg by the magazine MAGNOIA) for discussing this issue in depth in two books. I wonder if that magazine's mentor will receive similar reprimands for his efforts? Or maybe both of us were right!

This is a well written, exciting, thought provoking and important book.

MEDIA MATTERS

A look at UFOs in the public eye



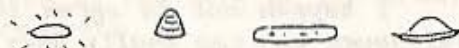
A sign of what society may face in the Sussex Express (11 May). It reported that a taxi driver scarred a woman for life with broken glass after their relationship deteriorated "when they saw UFOs close to their bungalow" and "He became very anxious as a result." It is often forgotten that UFOs can incite powerful emotions from the depth of the psyche. Perhaps those of us who toy with hypnotic regression could bear this story in mind.

Me magazine had a big UFO feature (4 Jun); partially reviewing 'Mind Monsters' but also discussing very soberly the work of BUFORA and the IUN (interviewing Andy Walmsley - who said, interestingly; 'Sometimes when someone believes they've seen an extraterrestrial object its best to leave that person in ignorance rather than to shatter his or her illusions.'

The British Journal of Photography has been UFO happy of late. Following a fairly negative analysis of the Ilkley Moor entity photo (used without knowledge or permission of the investigators and based it seems on the trustworthy Daily Star as one source of data) Peter Hough replied (5 Apr) with a full account in a letter. So far as I know this provoked no reply from the original debunker. Then on 3 May it was Stuart Campbell's turn with another in his series of 'great UFO cases I have solved'; this one being the New Zealand movie films of 1978. Those of you familiar with his earlier demystifications will not be astonished to learn that he views this famous airborne case as the result of a mirage of the planet venus which was several degrees below the horizon even from the sky.

BRIEF CASES

Some current investigations



BITS. . . Last issue I noted the comments by Colleen Innes that case 8906 (a Tornado jet reportedly firing on a UFO over Blackpool in July 1989) was now regarded by her as a hoax. Former colleagues at the Fylde UFO Investigation Group objected so I am glad to let them have their say.

The witness insists he did NOT stop trying to convince Colleen of the veracity of his story (as she believed). He still says it is true. Joe Dormer of the Fylde group says that in his view "there is no reason to believe the witness was hoaxing....there are several good reasons to suggest that he was describing an experience that was at least real to him." He points to the silence of the 'phantom' Tornado (which Colleen found could not be there) and that the witness has seen various other UFOs; one of which I (ie JR) have talked to him about. It was well described but was surely the 1978 re-entry of the Cosmos 1068 booster rocket...ie, in this case, NOT a hoax but a genuine misidentification; although I failed to persuade him.

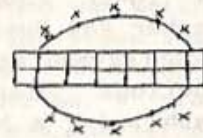
Apparently soon after his Tornado sighting (on 6 August 1989 at 15.40) the witness reported helicopters pursuing a black object out to sea near Blackpool Airport. Another 'impossible' story; yet this time investigation proved it was TRUE! It was a display of model helicopters for charity and the witness must have merely mistook their size and height against the sky. Yet, despite FUF0IG proving beyond doubt this WAS what the man saw the witness was not fully convinced. For these reasons, the group feel the Tornado story was honestly told and suggest we reserve judgement on it.

OVERSEAS CONNECTIONS

A few items of interest to note from our mailbag.

(1) JC was in the US Navy as a radar operator on a carrier. It was 1955 or 1956. They were cruising at night mid-Pacific when he observed a target enter the scope east of North. On the 100 mile range it did 1000 mph as it passed across the screen from north-south. He feels it was too fast for a mirage effect and too slow for a meteor. There were no air bases in range and no craft they knew could match this speed (couldn't a rocket plane?)

(2) Moving on to July 1973 at 14.00 on a sunny day GG was on Mont Alouette in Quebec, Canada, when he saw a strange object with two flat plates and a 'structure' in between that seemed to be made of shiny white metal. It floated across a field at the base of the hill some 200 metres from them and was silent. It vanished out of sight behind some trees.



Quebec, 1973

x Red, orange, yellow, blue lights
Louisiana, USA, 1989

(3) Back in Europe, in Mannheim, West Germany, November 1985 at 11.52 on a cloudless day, an anonymous man noticed something black in the sky whilst in a car park. It was a grey metal disc that hovered near the ground and 'faded in and out'. Then suddenly he realised that 7 minutes had vanished from his watch and he became scared and left. Two jets were now in the sky.

(4) This last report comes from Kentwood, Louisiana, USA, on 6 August 1989 at 21.30 (same day as the helicopters over Blackpool - see previous page!). HB was watching TV with his wife and daughter on a hot southern night. The air conditioning was broken so the doors were open. In a star-filled sky to the north a UFO drifted along and then halted. They all ran out to watch it hover, with lights pulsating all round. After it remained still and silent for some time it shot across the sky to the west with no turn in an impossible manouever, then returned and finally streaked away in this jerky motion vanishing to the south in seconds. HB says that if an earth power possesses a craft like this the rest of the world would be helpless. Mrs B says she briefly saw seats 'inside' the lighted windows.

MERSEY MIXTURE (3)

Cases by Margaret Fry

Case 8934 dates from March 1989, 19.00 in Maghull, Merseyside. Mr N was driving with a friend past King George's playing fields when a green 'V' shape whizzed across the sky in just a couple of seconds. Later several friends in the area said they had seen it too. Margaret says she spoke to the witness on several occasions and he expressed no knowledge or interest in UFOs. My only comment is that there is a possibility of a fireball meteor here, as bright green ones are not uncommon during March.

Finally in this present selection a sighting forming Case 8937 that occurred in Pontypool, South Wales. It was 05.05 on 31 October 1989. Mr E, a music teacher, looked up through a skylight to see a brilliant white ball of light that was moving at a low speed from north to south. The area was very quiet but this object was utterly silent during its passage and that was the strangest aspect. The glow was so intense that it diffused any possibility of seeing a shape. Mr E woke his wife and she was able to watch the object as well.

Margaret sums up by saying that she thinks "all these people were perfectly sincere, were not interested in publicity and had no ulterior motive in contacting me. I would have liked to have seen them but they all live too far away."

CASE 5203 FUF0IG 28 August 1952 Blackpool, Lancs A2-2

Mrs P and a friend were talking at approximately 22.00 when they saw a stationary light from Peel Bridge which then moved across the sky. They discussed whether it was an aircraft but were puzzled. Two days later the local Gazette featured a front page story with a photo of Blackpool's landmark tower complete with 'their' light. This was taken by staff photographer Ray Hoyle at 22.20 on the night of the sighting. He saw nothing whilst photographing the tower during a rehearsal for the world famous 'illuminations' display. There was much debate in the press about the photograph being a balloon with a lantern attached and an experiment was carried out on 30 August to test the theory. Unfortunately, the wind changed and blew the balloon away from the waiting press photographer! Mrs P's sighting was reported much later and the date is known only because she associated the press stories with it. However, more recent investigation of Mr Hoyle's unseen 'UFO' (which is vague and cone shaped) reveals beyond any doubt that it is precisely what he thought it was from the very start - a lens flare caused by the brilliantly illuminated tower. Mrs P's sighting must have been entirely unrelated and, of course, may not be on that date at all.

CASE 6621 FUF0IG Good Friday, 1966 Blackpool, Lancs Joe Dormer A5-5

Mr G was then aged 10. Walking home from choir practice with his younger brother and a friend he saw a tube of light with straight edges come down from the sky to the ground. This lasted 5 seconds but only the brothers saw it. 20 seconds later the 'solid beam' repeated. Again the friend saw nothing. On arrival home the boys mother said she had just been reading a religious book when the whole room lit up briefly and she sensed 'a being from another dimension' was there but could not establish contact because she did not know what to do. She told the boys to kneel and pray and keep silent about the matter. Only one brother has been interviewed due to sensitivity.

CASE 78-288 GHOSTBUSTERS 28 August 1978 Liverpool Tracy Cottom B2-5

Mr and Mrs F saw a white light drift across the sky and suddenly disappear on a warm clear night at about 22.30. The group think it was a satellite.

CASE 79-184 MUF0RA Unknown 1979 (ish!) Southwick, Tyne & Wear C3-3

Mrs M was going to a jazzband practice at 17.45 when she saw about 4 red lights in the dark north-western (winter) sky. They remained still for several minutes as she waited at a bus stop. Others saw them and discussed options. One man said it was a helicopter. Then they just 'went out'.

CASE 8755 GHOSTBUSTERS 28 August 1987 Wigan, Lancashire S. Hodgkison A2-2

Many local people reported seeing a whitish orange oval light between 22.00 and 23.00 after a media appeal by the group. The object was seen all over the area. It was silent. A suggestion was made that this was a jet aircraft using afterburner (shades of a case in February 1979 when Wigan was one of the places involved in the famous 'UFO chased by F-111' saga that introduced us to the Bacup UFO window). However, the group feel this may not be the truth due to unspecified 'loose ends' they yet have to tie up.

ANOTHER STEPLADDER CASE

Case 8660 FUF0IG 23 August 1986 Marton, Lancashire Joe Dormer A6-6

Readers may recall several recent cases where UFOs were seen to drop curtains of light like an unfolding stepladder down towards the ground. Two good examples were from the Golborne area and over the dry ski-slope in Rossendale. Here is another one. It was 01.35 when Mr L, who was watching late night TV via his video, saw a brilliant light outside. The house lights were off and this was so intense it drew him away from the flickering TV light. The glow was moving east to west and he presumed it to be a plane with



bright landing light ablaze. However, a curious 'tinsel shower' effect occurred with 10 or 20 sparkling lights cascaded down and fading out before reaching the ground. He went outside to check there was no sound, which confirmed this was no aircraft (as they are always heard at night when passing locally). The cascade of sparks occurred again as the object continued its steady path and then a third and final time before it suddenly disappeared in a blink. He found this worrying and 'not quite right' and claims he had a presentient awareness of this vanishing act just before it happened. Checking his watch he found the total duration was some 4 minutes. Next morning Mr L learned that a major power failure in the Preston/Warton area had occurred at 4am lasting several hours. He speculated on a possible connection. Investigation discovered that Blackpool Airport was closed from 21.00 the previous night. Mr L could provide a letter from Norweb confirming the "major outage" in "Preston, Salwick and Warton" - due to "a 33,000 volt cable fault between Penwortham and Salwick". A secondary failure led to a greater than normal area being effected. Subsequent checks revealed that Norweb claim that in their view; "The circumstances of the circuit outage are not abnormal and not attributable to any flying phenomena." Sounds like an interesting UAP.

CASE 8935 MUF0RA 25 April 1989 Grange Park, Lancs Colleen Innes A2-5

Witness JC called Colleen after seeing two UFOs 'crash into each other' whilst listening to records. Time was 21.12. He had looked to the north and seen the lights travelling towards each other, before they then joined and vanished. After 10 minutes shaking in paniche regained composure and called the airport to check on their air disaster. They knew nothing about this. JC also reported that the volume on his Hi-Fi went down until the collision was over then returned to normal. Colleen scanned the skies after JC's call and saw the UFOs exactly where they had been spotted. They were lasers from the pleasure beach reflecting off cloud to create moving patches.

CASE 8936 FUF0IG 10 June 1989 Blackpool, Lancs June Reynolds A2-5

A man in the station signalbox observed a bright silvery object floating across the sky at 15.22. He thought it was a toy balloon reflecting the sun. Over the course of the next three hours many more were seen. The witness is convinced they were not balloons as they rose high into cloud but the investigators are satisfied that given the holiday nature of the area and the way they all drifted WITH the wind this has to be the solution. A full account with diagrams and photographs is to be included in Issue 3 of The UFO Debate (see last NUN for details) if anyone wishes to look deeper.

POLICE AND AIRPORT IN MAJOR RADAR/VISUAL UFO SCARE - Er, well, sort of....
CASE 8938 MUFORA 30 November 1989 Kidsgrove, Staffs Peter Hough B3-7

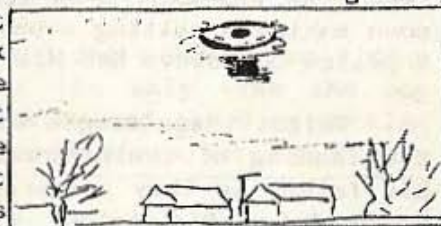
On 7 December 1989 the Stoke Sentinel reported how a 'UFO sighting baffles police'. Allegedly officers at Mow Cop, a hill in this town near Stoke on Trent watched a bright UFO for two hours after Manchester Airport alerted them to a target on their radar that failed to move. Whilst watching the UFO their radio sets went dead. Finally Kidsgrove police chief superintendent (Peter Grocott) went to see for himself. He was quoted as saying they did not know if it was "atmospherics or somebody from mars". They confirmed to the Airport that it was not the police chopper. Several residents also reported the UFO around 05.00. It vanished as the sun rose into the lightening sky around 07.00. The MoD confirmed they would investigate, but have yet to advise any results. The next day the Sun picked up on the matter and reported 'UFO pulls plug on cop radios'. It was basically a rewrite of the local paper story. Obviously, this represented a potentially important case which MUFORA tried to rapidly investigate. However, Staffordshire police were very uncooperative giving Peter the runaround from station to station, pleading that his request for interviews would have to be vetted by a 'higher authority'. As we waited Peter spoke to both the radar operators at the airport and Chris Mason at the CAA. Both stuck to their view that the radar blip was anomalous propagation (ie a radar echo) of the prominent Mow Cop rock formation, that they had isolated this cause on the same night of the event but after first calling Staffordshire police to check if their helicopter was flying. It seems that the police took the airport at their initial word and presumed the radar target had remained unexplained, thus leading to their on-site enquiry. After Peter's repeat requests and some months (in March 1990) Chief Grocott finally gave permission to interview the two officers most involved but he himself declined to comment. The officers wish anonymity but were aged in early 20's and reported that they went to Mow Cop at 04.30 and saw the twinkling blue white light in the SW sky. They watched it for some 20 minutes and it did not move, then they left. Returning at 07.00 it had gone but the sun was rising. The PCs did NOT report any unusual interference problems on their radio equipment. The director of Preston observatory was given salient facts and confirmed 'with a fair degree of confidence' that the police officers MUST have been viewing the planet Jupiter as they were looking right at it whilst it was very bright and yet did not mention the UFO in proximity to such a spectacular 'star'. Hence, it seemed, the UFO was the 'star'. Clearly a combination of circumstances plus a liberal media interpretation turned a simple IFO into a complex multi-witness radar visual with EM effects that we urge serious UFO groups to delete from their records. This is a very instructive case. Staffs Police were notified of the MUFORA conclusion.

CASE 8939 MUFORA 26 December 1989 Lancashire/Cheshire C3-5

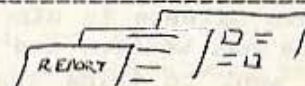
Mr C, wife and son were in a car returning from Blackpool to Leicester late on a dark cloudy night. On the M6 south of junction 32 they spotted green and red flashing lights ahead of them and drove underneath. Some time later (seemingly close to Manchester Airport; although this was unknown to them) they saw another cluster of lights, stopped on the hard shoulder and climbed the embankment. The object drifted away (silently - against the background noise of the busy motorway) displaying red and green flashing lights. MUFORA see no reason at all to conclude these were anything more than aircraft.

AN IRISH PHOTO CASE Report by Pat Delaney and Anne Griffin of BUFORA

On 18 April 1990 press stories began to report a sighting from Carlingford, Co Louth, Eire. Reputedly, on 14 April a 'spinning saucer' some 30 metres in diameter was seen by a local chemist. It descended onto the town glowing orange and he watched it for 4 minutes. At first he forgot that he had a camera round his neck ready to film a house he wanted to sell. But he took one picture of the disc when just 30 feet from him as it emitted a piercing noise before it left. He had to cover his ears as this hurt. Horses in a field were frightened and one was injured as it leapt a fence. Many other people heard the strange noise. More details emerged later. The sighting occurred at 16.30 on a fine day with scattered cloud. As the object almost landed it turned blue, then went red and lifted into cloud. A local truck driver claimed that his radio whined loudly about this time and has not worked since. Investigation has so far proven difficult but the team hope to meet these alleged witnesses. We do have a photocopy of the photograph. Frankly, to my eyes this so far does not make the case appear highly significant since the image of the UFO (supposedly 30 feet away remember) appears strange; although it has an constructed look to it. Perhaps this will turn out to be because it is a 'spacecraft' (as it was called) manufactured by some intelligence. The question of whose intelligence will have to remain open until the witnesses can be interviewed and the negative analysed. More on this if we get it.



CASE HISTORIES



DOWN IN THE BEDROOM SOMETHING STIRRED

D, from Birmingham, reports a series of interesting events which he has taken some time to steel himself to report. He says that 'from a very young age' he has been 'thrown into something I would rather do without'. The same goes for other members of his very close family. These incidents show well the thin dividing line between UFO close encounters of the CE 4 type and other paranormal phenomena.

As a baby of just a few months in native Jamaica D suffered the first nightmare. His mother reports finding him 'foaming at the mouth and in a terrible state' after a strange black figure had entered the room and flown out through the window. There was a terrific blast of wind accompanying it and neighbouring animals went crazy.

On coming to England his father began to have dreams about UFOs and aliens and going on board plus a strange room with a golden glow covered by oriental symbols. The house also began to suffer major poltergeist events including loud crashing sounds, lights and TV switching on and off on their own, strange scent-like smells coming from nowhere and mysterious mists and fogs appearing and disappearing. This was when the entire family lived together in a council house in a district of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.

On several occasions around the ages of 5 or 6 D either arrived at school far too early (in the dark) or was very late home without being able to recall why. The first UFO sighting followed soon after (a copper coloured cone above Bradley seen also by his brother). Around 1977 (now in his early teens) he saw many UFOs locally; including a 'bright globe the size of the moon making a cutting sound' and 'five blue lights' which played games with a police car above Nab Hill.

Whilst these events were unfolding a curtain of mist kept appearing on the landing of their house. And again in 1977 a 'small being' appeared to his father as they prepared for the move to a new address in the town. Two weeks later D's father died suddenly. His mother also alleged that she witnessed the landing of an object in the fields by the house at this time (1977 in reality WAS a very busy year for UFOs in the Pennines).

D left the area to live in a bedsit in the midlands with an ex-girlfriend. One night they were both awoken at 04.00 by a terrific thunderclap noise. Oddly they went straight back to sleep. D recalls a soft female voice in this on that same night saying three times that he must write down the following message (he woke himself up to do so in the dim dawn light). It was said in old English; "*Oh you that looks in the time of Leviathan and Behemoth (or Behemoph) and cannot see from where cometh the winds and storms of rain (then D- his name) or the arrows that fly by night or the pestilence that walks at noonday.*"

This witness is sincerely disturbed and frightened. His family do not know he has written and he does not wish to involve them. He adds that 'I do not want to think that I have ever been abducted, but there are many blank spaces in my life.' He has read much of the recent abduction literature (eg by Strieber, Hopkins and myself); 'I know now that there are many people who suffer silently.' We must realise what harm such writing may be doing by influencing witnesses into patterns of thought.

How we handle such a case, or even if we are qualified to do so, is very much a matter of debate. MUFORA decided it could not. Any suggestions?

ANOTHER VITAL CLOSE ENCOUNTER AT TODMORDEN

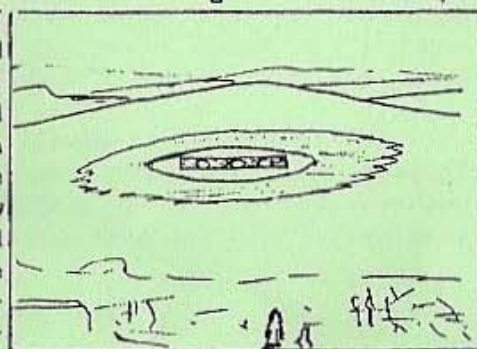
Case 78-289 MUFORA 30 November 1978 Todmorden, West Yorks Randles/Sandbach

This witness, J, wrote after reading one of my books to briefly describe a case which 'still haunts me to this day'. Her letter was so intelligently constructed and restrained despite the story being of great interest that we arranged an interview immediately and were not to be disappointed.

The location was Walsden, a small hill community near Todmorden (which shortly afterward Alan Godfrey patrolled as the village bobby although J had then moved south and genuinely did not know of his abduction until much later when moving back to Yorkshire). J would walk her whippet dog on the dark moors by her cottage. She was constantly alert in this isolated spot as the infamous Yorkshire Ripper was on the prowl at the time. Often she saw satellites, but also countless 'small lights that moved erratically about the sky' - possibly part of the earthlight/UAP heritage for which the Todmorden - Bacup UFO window is so notorious.

On 28 November, two years to the day prior to the Godfrey abduction less than 2 miles away, she saw two lights on her walk. They flew side by side from the north east around 23.00, split up and one flew silently south towards Manchester, the other west across the haunted moors towards Bacup. It was such a common sight that she barely took much notice, merely watching.

Then two days later at 18.30 she was with her dog after horse riding at a hillside stables as was routine. But for the only time the dog literally slid to a halt in the middle of frolicking and gazed up. Looking upwards herself J saw an incredible object silhouetted against the slopes to the west and above them. She admits that if the dog had not seen it she would have walked right beneath it without noting a thing as it was so low and near yet totally silent. J did a double take, looked back and it was still in the sky. By now she was transfixed by it. The object was lens shape and shrouded by a glow with a neon blue body inside and three round holes she took to be windows. In interview she displayed the absolute awe that the sight evoked. It was like a feeling of spiritual oneness. J pointed out that she was raised as a Catholic but is not now especially religious, but seeing this left such an ecstatic feeling it was just as she would imagine meeting Christ to be. Everything else vanished from her consciousness and she and the object were 'joined at the soul'.



She later tried to rationalise why it did not cast light on the ground, despite being so intense and low down. In the centre with the blue body and yellow 'windows' it was sharp but there was a 'weird greenish/silver cloud about it which thinned toward the outer limits. It was as if the dazzling light of the thing was contained within the haze.

Now came the most bizarre part and the reason why she felt too stupid to report the story to anybody before. She felt (rather than heard) a voice with words telling her soothingly, 'do not be afraid'. In an instant she went from unimaginable terror to calm, peace and almost loving security. J says that now she realizes it was almost as if the object were luring or hypnotising her (as she was fixated on it). For this reason (and many others) after much thought and discussion with MUFORA she has changed her mind after initially asking about hypnotic regression and decided she does not want to go through this. She adds; 'I swear that had something got out of the thing and said 'come with me' I would have followed like a lamb.'

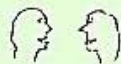
Next came a sensation that all her experience from birth onward was being rapidly sampled by the unseen occupants. Note how closely this case parallels a near death experience (the OZ factor, bright light, voice, bliss and now even the 'life review'). I am convinced this is by no means a coincidence and shows the vitally important clue that exists within the fact that BOTH NDE and UFO CE are altered states of consciousness, possibly even the same event with minor variations of interpretation. The experience ended similarly to an NDE as well. She 'knew' the thing was going, felt terribly sad, pleaded with it to stay, but was told she had not been harmed, would be protected and it left, splitting in two, trailing a shower of sparks like a stone zapped from a catapult. She stood on the moor in tears.

Much of the terminology used by this highly intelligent and absolutely trustworthy witness is itself fascinating. She says that during the encounter she felt 'divorced from myself' and added; 'It was as if it drained me - all my essence went into the UFO. I know this sounds terribly subjective but it was as if I was a computer terminal...It gets so frustrating visualising it but not being able to put it into words.' Now the experience 'hovers on the border of my memory and I know there is more that I do not remember. It is teasing me at the edge of understanding.'

She concluded; 'If you were to take a walk over the moors and the QE II suddenly materialised in front of you you'd feel what I felt. Knowing it HAD happened but realising it was impossible and you could not believe it yourself so could never try to tell others. I always believed before this that if I saw a UFO I'd tell the world...but it wasn't like that.'

Roy Sandbach and myself consider this the most important case we have investigated in many years. We are as certain as we can be of its authenticity and great significance. There is much more peripheral data of invaluable interest that this will be told in a sequel article next issue.

F I N A L
WORDS



Apologies again for the delay in this NUN. Some of you know my reasons for total disillusionment with UFOlogy. I wish I could promise they are temporary, but I don't know. I hope NUN will carry on, even if I do not, and whatever happens subscribers will not lose. That I promise. I cannot discuss what is happening, but the editorial team of our companion journal UFO BRIGANTIA know the facts and can possibly assist interested parties. The May issue of this features its usual blend of reports, reviews, wry commentary and articles (eg David Barclay on the 'Satanic' connection, news on UFOlogy and 'psychic questing', report on the recent Belgium UFO wave, the Granada TV show epic and a bizarre case of UFO sighting leading to the finding of a dagger - shades of 'The Green Stone'!) Don't forget you can still get a joint subscription deal to bring you a monthly magazine. Write to Brigantia for details at:- 84 Elland Rd Brighouse W. Yorks HD6 2QR

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